V—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY CYCLONE AND RAINS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice from the hon. Member Sri M. S. Selvarajan calling the attention of the Hon. Minister for Works to an urgent matter of public importance under Rule 41 of the Assembly Rules.

I want to clear a misunderstanding on the part of the hon. Member. The hon. Member may kindly look into Rule 41 which states as follows :

"A member may, after questions, and with the previous permission of the Speaker, call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may then make a brief statement on the matter or ask for time to make a statement later."

It means that the hon. Member can only raise the question. In Lok Sabha the practice is that no member is allowed to make a speech under Rule 197. The reply of the Hon. Minister also should be brief. It is necessary for the hon. Member under Rule 41 not to make a speech and for the Hon. Minister while giving his reply to make only a brief statement. Probably the hon. Member was not aware of the Rule. Yesterday when the hon. Member was making a speech I interrupted. But he refused to yield. The hon. Member should only raise the question and not make a speech.

SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN : I want to bring to the notice of this revered House a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the heavy damages caused to a number of big and small boats at Tuticorin Port area and along the coastal areas of Koilpatti, Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur and Nanguneri Taluks and the damages caused to the salt factories, thousands of huts and houses, temples and churches, lakhs of plantain trees, betel leaf farms, coconut, palmyrah and other trees in Tiruchendur, Nanguneri, Tirunelveli and Srivaikuntam Taluks, due to the cyclone and heavy rain on the 10th January 1961 and the breaches in many roads throughout Tirunelveli District especially in Tiruchendur, Srivaikuntam, Koilpatti and Nanguneri Taluks and the lack of immediate remedial measures.

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : On the night of 10th January 1961 there was heavy rain in Tirunelveli District on account of a deep depression near Jaffna. As a result of the cyclone, which struck Tuticorin on the same night, nine lighters discharging the cargo in the steamer anchorage at the port, sank, and one vessel ran aground off the Hare Island. Immediately on receipt of intimation about the cyclone damage from the Tuticorin Port Trust authorities, this Government requested the Government of India, Ministry of Transport and Communications, by telegram to send tug 'Cochin' from Cochin Port to Tuticorin to assist in salvaging

the sunken boats. A diving team, consisting of two divers, 13 men and diving equipment, was immediately sent to Tuticorin by the Madras Port Trust, as requested by this Government. The tug 'Mannar' stationed at Tuticorin, and the dredger 'Tuticorin,' and one of the off-shore fishing launches found suitable for diving operations, are also engaged in the salvage operations. The State Port Officer, Madras, was sent to Tuticorin immediately after the cyclone and he is still there, personally supervising the salvage operations and giving necessary advice and assistance to the Port authorities. According to the latest reports received from Tuticorin, the position of seven sunken boats has been located and buoys laid. The lighter, which grounded off the Hare Island, has been brought ashore. The position of the remaining two boats has not yet been located. At the request of the Tuticorin Port Trust, the Government of India were requested by this Government to arrange for naval assistance for expediting the salvage work. The Government of India have arranged for a naval survey party to reach Tuticorin on 29th January 1961 to locate the remaining sunken boats. This party will also be able to blow-up obstruction, if it is considered absolutely necessary. In the meantime, the State Port Officer has chartered out an alternate route for navigation and regular traffic in the Port has been resumed from the 26th instant. Every effort is being made to clear the normal route and open it for traffic at the earliest time possible. There was no loss of life and the loss of property due to the sinking of boats is estimated at Rs. 5 lakhs, as reported by the Chairman, Tuticorin Port Trust.

Due to heavy rain, there was sudden and unexpected floods in Thambraparani river on the night of 10th January 1961. Nineteen persons were stranded in Thaipoosam Mandapam and on the top of a smaller Mandapam nearby in the river bed. Two of them, one male and one female, who attempted to cross the floods, were drowned. The remaining stranded persons were rescued with the help of a country boat with great difficulty by the evening of 11th January 1961. In the early hours of 12th January 1961 telephonic message was received by the Collector regarding heavy discharge of water from Papanasam and Manimuthar Reservoirs. In anticipation of the low-lying inhabited areas on either side of the river being inundated, the Tahsildars through whose areas the Thambraparani river passes were fore-warned telegraphically about the anticipated heavy inflows in the river and asked to take all precautionary measures. The Municipal authorities of Tirunelveli, Palayamkottah and Melapalayam were asked to take immediate action for the exacuaton of the areas, whch are likely to be affected and fore-warn the people about the floods in other areas. The Revenue and Police officials in the District Headquarters were on the alert and arrangements were made to evacuate the residents of low-lying areas wherever necessity arise. All precautionary measures were taken by the Collector in time to warn the people and officials.

30th January 1961] [Sri P. Kakkan]

The heavy rains and cyclonic weather affected other areas also in the District, more especially in Nanguneri taluk. Detailed reports about these are awaited.

Regarding breaches due to floods, the Government have issued instructions to the Chief Engineers (Highways and Rural Works and Irrigation) and other officers of the Department, that breaches in roads, tanks etc., and damages to culverts and bridges, should be repaired immediately and restored to normal use without any delay. Diversions to roads have been provided wherever necessary, till the repairs are completed.

It will, thus, be seen that the Government and the departmental officers have taken all steps that are necessary and are possible in rendering the necessary assistance during the time of the floods and cyclone and after.

MR. SPEAKER : The ruling I gave with regard to calling attention under Rule 41 will apply hereafter to all hon. Members and not only to the hon. Member, Sri M. S. Selvarajan.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கூறிய பதிலிலிருந்து. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : இந்த விதியின்படி எப்படி பேசமுடியும்? விதி எல்லோருக்கும் ஒன்றுதான். எனக்குமேல் உங்களுக்கு அனுபவம் இருக்கிறதே! ஆகவே அமைச்சர் கூறியவற்றிற்கு மேல் ஒன்றும் கேட்கவே முடியாது.

VI—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MADRAS STATE HOUSING BOARD BILL, 1960 (L.A. BILL No. 31 OF 1960).

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Madras State Housing Board Bill, 1960 (L.A. Bill No. 31 of 1960).

VII—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS APPROPRIATION BILL, 1961 (L.A. BILL NO. 6 OF 1961).

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I move "that the Madras Appropriation Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1961) be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

'That the Madras Appropriation Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No 6 of 1961) be taken into consideration.'

The motion was put and carried.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, I want to speak on the motion.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, the hon. Member may speak at the third reading stage.